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OPERATION FALCON

Portland, Oregon – United States Attorney Karin Immergut and United States Marshal Dennis Merrill announced the results of a National Fugitive Apprehension effort, called Operation FALCON (Federal And Local Cops Organized Nationally) that was conducted April 4-10, 2005. This Operation represents an unprecedented cooperative effort among federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities. The specific time frame for Operation FALCON was selected to coincide with “National Crime Victims Rights Week” sponsored by the Department of Justice. The theme of the operation is “Justice isn’t served until crime victims are”. Clearly, a fundamental obligation of the law enforcement community at any level is to vigilantly pursue offenders creating a safer community.

Operation FALCON represents the largest fugitive manhunt ever undertaken by any law enforcement agency in the United States. The U. S. Marshals Service (USMS) used its existing network including all 94 federal judicial districts, as well as 83 District, and five Regional Fugitive Task Forces across the country to provide the infrastructure for this operation. Most importantly, the USMS effectively partnered with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to make Operation FALCON an outstanding success. Over 950 agencies helped in this effort: 25 federal, 206 state, 361 police departments and 362 county sheriff’s departments.

The focus of Operation FALCON included fugitives wanted for, or with underlying charges of gang crimes, homicides, kidnapping, sex crimes, robbery, assaults, arson,

extortion, burglary, drugs, domestic abuse, unregistered sex offenders and weapons offenses.

Nationally, the total number of fugitives arrested through operation FALCON totaled 10,340.

In Oregon, the following agencies participated:

Clackamas County Sheriff's Office
Douglas County Sheriff's Office
Douglas County Parole & Probation
Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
Multnomah County Department of Community Justice
Oregon State Police
Portland Police Bureau
Portland Bureau of Emergency Communications
Roseburg Police Department
Social Security Administration (SSA)

The Marshals Service in Oregon has two fugitive Task Forces. One is the Oregon HIDTA Fugitive Task Force and the other is the Ad Hoc Fugitive Task Force. The purpose of the Ad Hoc Fugitive Task Force is to establish partnerships between the participating agencies for the apprehension of violent fugitives on a case by case basis. Currently, 18 agencies are signatories to the Ad Hoc Fugitive Task Force. Since almost all of the state and local agencies participating in Operation FALCON have partnered with the Marshals Service in the Ad Hoc Task Force, this framework was used for the Operation.

During the week April 4 -10, there were approximately 45 agents, officers, detectives, deputy sheriffs, and deputy U.S. Marshals combined on a daily basis. Most of the task force members were special deputized as deputy U.S. Marshals. This special deputation gave the federal agents assigned the authority to apprehend state fugitives and for the

state and locals, it gave them the authority to apprehend federal fugitives and work outside the state if necessary (i.e., Vancouver, WA).

The participating agencies were asked to provide lists of wanted fugitives meeting the operational focus. Using this information, specific fugitives were selected as targets for the operation.

Within Oregon, 106 felony fugitives were arrested and 110 warrants cleared. 102 fugitives had prior convictions and are repeat offenders. Highlights: 19 arrests were made in the category of Sexual Assault- including sexual offenders failing to report; 27 arrests for drug related crimes, seven for weapons related crimes, 6 gang related crimes, and two for felony assault. One of the assault cases was charged with attempted murder.

Of the 106 fugitives arrested only 13 were federal fugitives. All other fugitives were wanted on state charges: Multnomah County 45; Clackamas County; 16; Douglas County 25; Washington County 2; State Parole & Probation 5.